GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
IMPORT OF PEPPER
Nair Shri P.K. Vasudevan;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested to modify the EXIM policy to keep a check on the import of low quality pepper and cardamom;

(b) if so, country-wise, quantity-wise and value-wise details of imports;

(c) whether cardamom and pepper are mixed with Indian product and exported;

(d) whether it is a fact that coconut and coconut products of low quality are dumped into India by Sri Lanka;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the reasons; and

(f) the steps Government of India is contemplating to check these imports and exports to save our peasants?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 FOR 10.12.2004 REGARDING IMPORT OF PEPPER.

b) Country-wise details of Indian import of pepper and cardamom in terms of quantity and value for the last few years is given below:-

Pepper Quantity in tonnes

Value in Rs. crores

Country	2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Vietnam	7013.9	48.89	5535.0	36.41
Sri Lanka	6099.0	57.05	4915.8	35.26
Indonesia	1529.7	12.19	3384.3	24.07
Malaysia	55.6	0.36	123.2	0.69
Thailand	124.6	0.60	99.1	0.50
Singapore	45.0	0.44	90.3	0.87
Brazil	-	-	75.0	0.53
Ecuador	-	-	56.0	0.37
Others	524.1	3.85	55.6	0.54
Total	15391.8	123.38	14334.1	99.23

Source: Spices Board

Cardamom (Small) Quantity in tonnes

Value in Rs. crores

Country	2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Guatemala	166.3	4.48	37.2	0.72
Singapore	77.4	2.20	21.0	0.59
Others	79.2	1.90	1.2	0.06
Total	322.9	8.58	59.4	1.37

Source: Spices Board

(c) Two cases of exporting imported pepper as Indian pepper have been reported. The Certificates of Registration of the concerned exporters were suspended for a specified period.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Steps taken by Government of India to check the imports are as follows:-

i) Import duty on pepper and cardamom was increased from 35% to 70% from the year 2002-03.

ii) Import of sensitive commodities is monitored in the Office of Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

iii) Issue regarding surge in import of pepper from Sri Lanka was taken up with the Sri Lankan authorities at the last Commerce Secretary level talks in August, 2004.

iv) The Government agencies of India as well as Sri Lankan side have been authorised to issue the Certificate of Origin for availing preferences under the India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement to prevent the mis-use of the Agreement.

v) Coconut Development Board has initiated action for setting up quality testing laboratory for testing the quality of various coconut products available in the domestic market which will prevent the sale of inferior quality / adulterated products.